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Moynihan urges offensive against Soviet eavesdroppers

By John McCaslin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The United States' countermeasures to Soviet electronic eavesdropping have only been defensive in nature, Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan said yesterday as he called on the Reagan administration to expel Soviet spies "one at a time, one per day."

In testimony before the Senate subcommittee on investigations, the New York Democrat and former vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee cited dozens of known Soviet KGB and GRU agents assigned to the United Nations and Soviet Embassy in Washington for eavesdropping purposes only.

"In 1975, when I was named U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nelson Rockefeller, then vice president, told me the first thing I must know about the U.N. is that the Soviets would be listening to every telephone call I made from our mission or from our suite in the Waldorf Towers," said Mr. Moynihan.

Since then, he said, the Soviets have mounted a tremendous effort aimed at intercepting U.S. communications and "our countermeasures to date have been essentially defensive in nature, expensive and slow to take effect."

Legislation introduced in Congress earlier this year — the Foreign Surveillance Prevention Act of 1985 — would require the president, upon learning of illegal electronic surveillance by a foreign mission, to demand that it be discontinued and, failing that, declare the diplomats involved persona non grata and expel them.

The FBI has estimated that some 40 percent of the Soviet Embassy personnel in Washington were occupied with eavesdropping.

"We should send them home one at a time, one per day, until they get the message," said Mr. Moynihan.

The Senate last month passed an amendment introduced by Mr. Moynihan requiring that no less than $1 million of the FBI's fiscal 1986 funding be used for countering Soviet interception of domestic U.S. telecommunications.

Under the same amendment, the FBI director shall report to Congress by June 1, 1986, on the bureau's ability to counter the interception of U.S. telecommunications by foreign agents.

At risk are microwave transmission, satellite transmission and mobile telephone transmission, Mr. Moynihan said.

"The Soviets have the potential to have it all," the senator said, adding that 90 percent of America's long distance phone calls travel all, or part of the way, by microwave or satellite transmission paths "that are easily intercepted.

"This is accomplished from the Soviet diplomatic missions in New York City, their consulate in San bassy, soon to be located on Mt. Alto, one of the highest points in Washington and an ideal communications vantage point," he said.

Democratic Sen. John Glenn of Ohio said yesterday that the Soviet mission is made easier because more than 4 million Americans have access to classified information and data.

Meanwhile, yesterday, a federal magistrate ordered Anne Henderson-Pollard held without bond pending grand jury action on charges of unauthorized possession of classified documents.

Her husband, Jonathan Jay Pollard, charged with espionage, is being held without bond.

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